Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a signal transduction pathway that is influenced by an endocrine disrupting activity of a test substance, the method comprising:

a. exposing a cell to a test substance;

b. isolating a first mRNA from the cell that has been exposed to the test substance in step (a) and a second mRNA from a cell that has not been exposed to the test substance;

c. hybridizing a first probe and a second ~~prove~~ probe with genes, or DNA fragments derived from the ~~gene, in~~genes, on a DNA array, wherein the first probe is obtained by labeling the first mRNA obtained in step (b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the first mRNA as a template and the second probe is obtained by labeling the second mRNA obtained ~~inn~~ in step (b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the second mRNA as a template;

d. comparing signal intensities observed using the

first probe with signal intensities observed using the second probe, wherein the signal intensities correspond to expression levels of genes in cells;

e. identifying a series of genes in which the expression levels are altered as a result of exposure of the cell to the test substance; and

f. determining a signal transduction pathway that is influenced by an endocrine disrupting activity of the test substance, wherein the signal transduction pathway involves the series of genes identified in step (e), wherein the genes on the DNA array comprise at least one gene for each of the respective groups (1) to (17):

(1) genes for a nuclear receptor or genes related to nuclear receptor transcriptional coupling;

(2) genes related to kinase type signal transduction;

(3) genes related to gonad differentiation;

(4) genes for or related to a receptor type kinase;

(5) genes for or related to an intermediate filament marker;

(6) genes related to cell cycle or growth regulation;

(7) oncogenes, genes related to an oncogene

or genes related to tumor suppression;

(8) genes related to apoptosis;

(9) genes related to damage response, repair, or recombination of DNA;

(10) genes for or related to a receptor;

(11) genes related to cell death or differentiation regulation;

(12) genes related to adhesion, motility, or invasion of a cell;

(13) genes related to angiogenesis promotion

(14) genes related to cellular invasion;

(15) genes related to cell-cell interaction;

(16) genes for or related to a Rho family, GTPase, or a regulator therefor; and

(17) genes for or related to a growth factor or a cytokine.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for determining a substance that causes endocrine disruption in a manner similar to an endocrine disruptor, the method comprising:

a. exposing a cell to an endocrine disruptor or to a test substance;

b. isolating a first mRNA from the cells that ~~has~~ have been exposed to the endocrine disruptor in step (a), isolating a second mRNA from the cell that has been exposed to

the test substance in step (a), and isolating a third mRNA from a cell that has not been exposed to the endocrine disruptor or to the test substance;

c. hybridizing a first probe and a third probe with genes, or DNA fragments derived from the genes, on a DNA array, wherein the first probe is obtained by labeling the first mRNA obtained in step (b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the first mRNA as a template, and the third probe is obtained by labeling the third mRNA obtained in step (b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the third mRNA as a template;

d. comparing signal intensities observed using the first probe with signal intensities observed using the third probe, wherein the signal intensities correspond to expression levels of genes in cells;

e. identifying a series of genes in which the expression levels are altered as a result of the exposure of the cell to the endocrine disruptor;

f. hybridizing a second probe and a third probe with genes, or DNA fragments derived from the genes, on a DNA array, wherein the second probe is obtained by labeling the second mRNA obtained in step (b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the second mRNA as a template, and the third probe is obtained by labeling the third mRNA obtained in step

(b) or by labeling a nucleic acid prepared using the third mRNA as a template;

g. comparing signal intensities observed using the second probe with signal intensities observed using the third probe, wherein the signal intensities correspond to expression levels of genes in cells;

h. identifying a series of genes in which the expression levels are altered as a result of the exposure of the cell to the test substance; and

i. determining if the test substance is a substance that causes endocrine disruption in a manner similar to the endocrine disruption by comparing the series of the genes identified in step (e) with the series of genes identified in step (h), wherein the genes on the DNA array comprise at least one gene for each of the respective groups (1) to (17);

(1) genes for a nuclear receptor or genes related to nuclear receptor transcriptional coupling;

(2) genes related to kinase type signal transduction;

(3) genes related to gonad differentiation;

(4) genes for or related to a receptor type kinase;

(5) genes for or related to an intermediate

filament marker;

(6) genes related to cell cycle or growth regulation;

(7) oncogenes, genes related to an oncogene or genes related to tumor suppression;

(8) genes related to apoptosis;

(9) genes related to damage response, repair, or recombination of DNA;

(10) genes for or related to a receptor;

(11) genes related to cell death or differentiation regulation;

(12) genes related to adhesion, motility, or invasion of cells;

(13) genes related to angiogenesis promotion;

(14) genes related to cellular invasion;

(15) genes related to cell-cell interaction;

(16) genes for or related to a Rho family, GTPase, or a regulator therefor; and

(17) genes for or related to a growth factor or a cytokine.